

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for Center for Academic Excellence in Government Service in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is AUC Consortium, Inc., located at P.O. Box 92527, Atlanta, GA 30314.

A general lack of understanding of the types and scope of government positions in addition to a lack of professional development specifically geared toward government service contribute to stagnant enrollment of personnel into the federal government. There needs to be a greater commitment to diversifying federal workforce, especially in the professional and career positions. To address this, this proposal will establish the Center for Academic Excellence in Government Service to educate and provide career guidance and preparation for diverse groups for careers in government service. This proposal will establish a Center for Academic Excellence in Government Service at a consortium of Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs) that that can convene, at mass, other academic institutions. The goal of this center is to prepare students at this consortium for careers in government service. Students freely cross-register for courses on any campus and can seek certifications from the consortium. Faculties will develop curricula (both online and in-class) to teach the historical relevance of government/public service in the upward mobility of underserved communities. Additionally, curricula can be added to any major, where certifications can be earned in public/government service that signifies a deeper appreciation and knowledge base of the value of a career in public and government sector. Federal departments and agencies can take advantage of specialized recruitment opportunities through the consortium.

There needs to be a greater commitment to diversifying the federal workforce, especially in the professional and career positions. The Center for Academic Excellence in Government Service will develop curricula that highlight and demystify government employment, work and partner with government agencies to provide meaningful internships and career development workshops, develop a mentoring program, and utilize the convening power of the consortium to bring together students.

This is a good use of taxpayer dollars by increasing diverse candidates applying for positions within the federal government, creating a pipeline of students credentialed to meet the needs of a diverse public service corps in the 21st century, at scale.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nikema Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress